

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 JUSE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 /101 W

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R 201310Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4658

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6435

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ASEC TU

SUBJECT: GOT HANDLING OF ISTANBUL AIRPORT TERRORISTS

REF: (A) ANKARA 6273, (B) ANKARA 6356

1. INTERIOR MINISTER ASILTURK HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS FAVORING EXTRADITION OF THE ISTANBUL AIRPORT TERRORISTS (REFTELS), BUT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THESE ARE "PERSONAL" OPINIONS.

2. AN ANATOLIAN NEWS AGENCY REPORT PUBLISHED IN ASILTURK'S PARTY NEWSPAPER, MILLI GAZETE, ON AUGUST 18, QUOTED ASILTURK AS TELLING REPORTERS THAT HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ABOUT THE TERRORISTS' EXTRADITION HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. HE WENT ON TO SAY: "IF IT HAD BEEN WITHIN THE POWERS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE DECISION AND APPLIED IT. BUT THE DECISION RESTS WITH THE TURKISH COURTS, NOT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. MY STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE TOTALLY MY PERSONAL OPINION. I REPEAT, IT IS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT LONG DETENTION OF THESE GUERILLAS IN TURKEY WILL CAUSE CERTAIN OTHER RESULTS

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AGAINST US. WE ARE APART FROM THE PALESTINIAN GUERILLAS

AND THE ISRAELI GROUPS THAT OPPOSE THEM. THESE EVENTS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH US. IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP OUR AIRCRAFT AND DIPLOMATS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD REMOTE FROM THESE MATTERS. FOR THIS REASON, EXTRADITION OF THE TERRORISTS TO LEBANON IS A POSSIBILITY."

3. SUBSEQUENTLY ASILTURK WAS QUOTED IN HURRIYET AUG 20 AS TELLING REPORTERS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON A VISIT TO CYPRUS: "THE TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT OF THE GUERILLAS BY THE COUNTRY OF WHICH THEY ARE CITIZENS WOULD BE IN OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS." HURRIYET ALSO REPORTED THAT ASILTURK SAID THAT LEBANON HAD NOT YET REQUESTED THE TWO TERRORISTS' EXTRADITION. HE WENT ON TO REASSERT, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THAT FURTHER DETENTION OF THE TWO MEN IN TURKEY WAS HARMFUL IN TERMS OF TURKISH NATIONAL INTERESTS. ASILTURK ALSO SAID THAT THE GOT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO "BARGIN" IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK ON A THY (TURKISH AIRLINES) AIRCRAFT OR IN THE EVENT OF THE KIDNAPPING OF A TURKISH DIPLOMAT.

4. COMMENT: THE GOT'S DECISION TO PROSECUTE THE TERRORISTS ON A MURDER CHARGE IN TURKEY -- REGARDLESS OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF RETALIATION -- IS REPORTED IN REF B.
MACOMBER

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